



Kill The Lies | Shawn Johnson | 12.09.2023

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

What is your favorite Christmas tradition to participate in?

What's one thing you're proud of that you didn't think was possible at the beginning of the year?

What was the most meaningful thing God has spoken/revealed to you this year?

GROW

This week, we were blessed to be able to stream our weekend service live from our amazing Women's GBB facility, and Shawn had one more Alive & Free message up his sleeve, *Kill The Lies*. Shawn reminded us of the pillar verse of this series, John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" NIV. The enemy has many tricks to steal our peace, kill our joy, and destroy our lives, and one of the ways he does this is through lies. Fortunately, none of his tricks compares to the saving work of Jesus on the cross. When we fix our eyes on him and believe in his word, we can start to live alive and free.

Read Colossians 2:8, Psalm 109:2-4

Lies wield significant power. They can cause harm, mislead us, isolate us, and alter how we perceive reality. Often, the most damaging lies are the ones we tell ourselves. Charles Cooley's

"looking glass theory" argues that it's our subjective perception of our experiences, not the objective reality of those experiences that shapes our beliefs and identity. Shawn's party example beautifully illustrates the human experience behind Cooley's most influential thought: "I am not what I think I am. I am not what you think I am. I am what I think you think I am." This scenario reveals how lies can mold our beliefs and identity—something we can all relate to. Once the partygoer is told that "no one at the party likes him," emotions override logic and his perception of reality - not true reality itself - becomes the fundamental lens through which he experiences life. The partygoer is no longer who he thinks he is, nor is he what others actually think of him. Because of this lie, the partygoer now experiences life as if everyone at the party doesn't like him. The enemy will grab a hold of one tiny strand in our life tug on it to get our attention, and then hand it to us until we unravel ourselves into oblivion. But A.W. Tozer poses a fourth option. "What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us." God is the Author and Creator of everything and if anyone has the power to proclaim fundamental truths about us, it's the One who created us. The question is, do you believe the things he knows about you more than what you think about yourself, what others think about you, or what you think others think about you?

What is your big takeaway from these passages? What aspects challenged you?

Consider Cooley's "Looking Glass Theory." Have you ever found yourself in a situation where lies based on your perception of an experience or what you thought others thought of you started affecting your life as if they were true? Explain.

Which lie causes you to spiral out of control most effortlessly? Share your thoughts. Additionally, which of God's truths about you is the most challenging for you to accept and live out in your daily life? Why is it so difficult to internalize?

M O V E

Read John 10:27-29, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Craig Groeschel brought up a great point about the power of lies. "A lie believed as truth, will affect your life as if it were true." We all have lies holding us captive to a certain extent. Some lies influence our beliefs, some affect our confidence, and some have been holding us captive for a long time. Things like, "I'm not enough," "Nobody loves me," "If God actually cared about me, ___ wouldn't be happening right now," etc. Shawn reminded us that it's normal to feel this

way from time to time, and our feelings are valid, but the lies triggering them are not. They are always from the enemy, and if we ever hope to live the life God intended for us, we must pray for his help in demolishing these lies from our lives so we can walk in freedom, having confidence in The Truth he proclaims over our lives. When we know the voice of God, differentiating the lies of the enemy from His truth becomes easier. But “knowing” the voice of God doesn’t happen overnight. It requires frequency and proximity with Him. Frequency keeps us on the right path, familiarizing us with his voice and his guidance (Psalm 1:1-2) and Proximity in the sense of relational intimacy, not necessarily physical closeness. God is always with us; we are never far away (Psalm 139:7-9). But our shame, guilt, and need to feel strong enough or have it all together can cause us to put up walls that distance us from him and from others who want to help us. John 10:27 hints that we listen to His voice “because” he knows us, implying that we must invite God into the most intimate parts of our life, allowing ourselves to become known by him. When we invite the One who knows us better than we know ourselves to speak truth into the most vulnerable aspects of our lives, His voice becomes a comforting presence that is unmistakable, which helps us demolish the lies that hold us captive.

Reflect on the idea that knowing the voice of God requires frequency and proximity with Him. How do you prioritize and cultivate these aspects in your relationship with God?

What does “demolishing the lies of the enemy” look like in your life? Do you actively “fact-check” your thoughts, feelings, and beliefs against the Word of God?

What lie is holding you captive? What truth would set you free if you believed it?

What’s keeping you from being “fully known” by God? What wall do you still have up? Why?

P R A Y

This week pray for the power of God to help you begin to identify the lies that you’ve been believing, then pray for his power to help you start demolishing them and get them out of your life. Pray over your group for protection from the lies and tricks of the enemy, and that God’s voice can be heard clearly by everyone, revealing truths about them that set them free from the lies that have been holding them captive.